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The BG News August 7, 2002

Bowling Green State University

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Linkin Park's
Reanimation goes under
the microscope; PAGE 5

BG NEWS

Bowling Green State University
A weekly independent student press

WEDNESDAY

August 7,
2002

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HIGH: 78 | LOW: 52

www.bgnnews.com
VOLUME 94 | ISSUE 12

SEX



Photo Illustration by Jenn Trevino BG News

in Bowling Green

Message behind our sex feature

THE BG NEWS

At The BG News we have a responsibility to bring the University and community news that we feel is important, and while we have both succeeded and failed at this challenge in attempts past, we feel that the issue brought forth in this, our last issue of the summer — sex — is quite an important one.

Whether casual or meaningful, sex is no doubt a part of college students' lives everywhere. Due to that simple fact, along with conceptions that the University has a high demographic of students afflicted with some sort of sexually transmitted disease, we feel that the issue becomes all the more important.

Are we taking sides on the issue? No. Are we saying sex is bad? No. Are we saying it's good? No. What we are doing is presenting viewpoints and stories about what sex at the University is.

One position we will and do take is that no matter what the type, position or circumstance of sex at the University and its outskirts, we do promote that it be done safely. We are in no position to tell you what to do, but let us suggest to you, our readers, that you do whatever you do safely.

Enjoy yourselves, and enjoy what we have to say about the issue.

Safely.

Role of sex overstated on campus

By Chuck Soder
THE BG NEWS

Sex is a high priority to many University students, but its role in college life might be a bit overstated.

Though many high schoolers are sexually active, the freedom of college life changes the role sex plays in a student's life, according to junior Tony Day.

"(Sex) is more in the open now," he said. "In high school, it seems so taboo. Back then, you're more sensitive of what you can talk about around parents, teachers or any authority figure."

Though figures of authority exist on campus in the form of professors and advisors, their relationships with students are more mature than in high school. "Authority figures here aren't worried about you in the

same way they were before," Day said. "They usually just worry about your grades."

But not every college student puts sex at the top of the agenda. It falls down the list of priorities as a student gets older, according to Jessica Napier, senior.

"A lot of younger guys think, 'I'm in college now, I need to get a girl,'" she said. "But once they get older they're more mature."

Nicole Burke and Amy Olding agreed that sex weighs more heavily on the male mind.

"It's important to girls, but not very important," Burke said.

But for guys or girls, seniors or freshman, sex becomes more important in college, partly because of the more liberal atmosphere, Napier said.

"The moral system is a bit looser in college," she added.

"People are willing to try new things."

City bars often set the tone for social activity, but whether that tone is sexual varies from day to day, person to person and bar to bar, according to Day.

"I guarantee it's on the back of everyone's mind, but college life doesn't revolve around sex."

AMBER BROWNING, JUNIOR

"It really depends on your mood," he said. "Meeting girls is always on the agenda, but some nights you'd rather go to the bar just to hang out with your

friends."

Whether bar-goers are out to find a potential mate also depends on the type of bar they're visiting, according to Amber Browning, junior.

"I'd say about 75 percent of people going to dance clubs are there to hook up with somebody," Browning said. "But when people are (over 21), they might go to BW3's or Ziggy Zomba's just to have a drink and hang out."

Senior Mike Carlson agreed that most guys go to dance clubs looking for females: "I don't hear any of my friends say, 'man, I wanna go to the (dance) clubs because I just love to dance.'"

But on any night out, fun is the primary goal — not sex, according to Browning.

"I guarantee it's on the back of everyone's mind, but college life

doesn't revolve around sex," she said.

Browning added that she finds the college stereotype misleading. "Everybody thinks college is all about sex, drugs and partying," she said. "But I'd guess that only about half the students here are sexually active."

Not everyone agreed with Browning's estimate — Day, Carlson and Burke made guesses that the number of sexually active students on campus ranges from 60 to 80 percent. If it's not students' top priority, it's still a major concern, according to Day.

"As much as studying or paying your bursar bill," he said with a laugh.

Programs educate on unprotected sex

400,000 students between the ages of 18 and 24 had unprotected sex in the year 2001.

By Beth Franklin
THE BG NEWS

Casual sex is a common thing on today's college campuses, but many college students don't take the proper precautions before they take a partner to bed with them.

According to a survey done by Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, 400,000 students between the ages of 18 and 24 had unprotected sex in the year 2001. That is more than ten times the number of people who can fit into the Doyt L. Perry

Football Stadium.

"Students have no excuse when it comes to having unsafe sex," said Dr. Paul Rickers, Assistant Director of Research at the CDC. "Schools go out of their way to make protection available for free or at inexpensive prices. Programs like Planned Parenthood offer steep discounts for students on birth control and male and female condoms, yet students continue to engage in unprotected sex. Ultimately, we blame alcohol consumption."

According to the same survey by the CDC more than 100,000 students nationwide between the ages of 18 and 24 have been too intoxicated to remember if they used a form of protection during intercourse.

John, 20, is a University student who admits to having

unprotected sex. He asked that his last name remain confidential. John claims that alcohol had nothing to do with his decision to avoid using protection. He has had eight sexual partners during the three years he has been a student at the University. "I think I only used protection with about half of the girls I have been with," he said. "Sex is so much better without a condom and I wouldn't go to bed with a girl that I didn't trust. It is all about the feeling of it. I have been sober and chosen not to use a condom."

Rickers said that John sounds like the typical college students.

"What we have here are students who are very selective with the things they allow themselves to think and believe. You can't trust anyone when it comes to casual sexual encounters.

Common sense should tell you that," Rickers referenced another study done by the CDC and the American College Health Association that showed that 1 in 500 college students is infected with HIV.

"There are college classrooms with almost 500 people in them; those aren't good statistics. They mean that along the way someone told you they were clean, and they weren't."

Another University student, Katy Smith, 19, said that she believes alcohol plays a large role in whether or not students have unprotected sex. Smith chose not to discuss her personal experience, but did say that she knows a large number of people who have had unprotected sex while they were under the influence of alcohol.

"I think when you are drunk

you are just thinking about what feels good then, or you just forget about protection entirely," she said. "It just doesn't cross your mind."

Smith also said that she knows many men say sex is more pleasurable without a condom, but those who avoid them because of that reason are making a poor choice.

"If I were a guy, I wouldn't be taking those chances. It's just stupid."

John pointed out that men aren't the only ones involved in that decision.

"If a woman wants the man to wear a condom, she should tell him. If he says no and she has sex with him anyway, then that was her choice. Men aren't the only ones responsible for what happens during sex."

Multiple definitions of going all the way

By Jessica Suarez
U-WIRE

TUCSON, Ariz. — A definition of virginity is hard to come by at the University of Arizona -- there's probably one for every student on campus, based on everything from religious beliefs to sexual orientation to family values.

A survey conducted last spring of more than 1,000 UA undergrads found that 27 percent considered themselves virgins, and of those students, their reasons varied.

How students define virginity could vary, as surveys of teenage students have showed.

In 1990, 1991, 1993, and 1995, 53 to 54 percent of high school students said they had had sexual intercourse. In 1999, however, only 49.9 percent of teenagers reported having had sexual intercourse, according to research collected by the Planned Parenthood Federation.

But at the same time, the overall proportion of young men who had received manual -- or "hands-on" -- stimulation from a woman or girl increased greatly, from 40 percent in 1988 to 53 percent in 1995.

So just when is someone no longer a virgin? Once they've had sex, or once they've gotten a hand job? How about masturbation? Can you lose your virginity with someone of your own gender? And after you lose it, is there a way to find it again?

Different strokes

For some students, everything including oral sex -- which most seemed to consider the "third base" of sexual activity -- was fair game for those wishing to remain virgins. For others, anything past kissing meant you were too close to home.

According to Mikey Friedman, a psychology senior, and his boyfriend of four months, Ben Swain, also a psychology senior, dating for them is much the same as dating is for straight couples. When it comes to sex, however, there is a difference. Gay men can lose their virginity either as a top or a bottom.

"Sex is completely different for straight people. There's only one way to have sex," said Friedman. Both said that for gay men, losing your virginity means either giving or receiving anal sex.

But Stephen Weldon, a molecular and cellular biology sophomore who has had a girlfriend for six months -- which he considers long-term -- thinks that intercourse is the only way to lose your virginity.

"Oral sex doesn't count," he said. Anal sex wasn't on his list of bases, which included kissing as first base, manual genital stimulation (which Friedman and Swain referred to as "getting felt up") second and oral sex as third.

Let's talk about sex

Consider the authors of "Sex Talk" your third-base coaches. Melissa McGee, a harm and risk reduction coordinator of campus health, answers students' questions in "Sex Talk," a frequent question and answer column that the Campus Health Center runs as an ad in the Arizona Daily Wildcat.

The subjects of those letters and the answers to them range from masturbation to pregnancy. And to answer the questions, McGee often quotes numbers from the Annual Health and Wellness Survey done by Campus Health.

McGee said the survey is one of only a few in the nation that looks into the number of partners undergraduates have, statistics of virginity and their reasons. The questions, however, vary from year to year.

When it comes to frequency, 68 percent of UA students had one or no partners last year. The number was slightly down from the year before, when 71 percent said the same, the survey indicated.

Becky Stephenson, an incoming freshman, has a strict definition of virginity. She considers anything beyond kissing to be the end of one's virginal life. Between the definitions given by Stephenson and Weldon, "hooking up" could range from a simple date to anal sex.

Friedman and Swain both

agreed hearing that someone had "hooked up," would bring to mind penetrative sex -- anal or vaginal. Phillips had a similar opinion.

"Usually when I hear 'hooked up,' I think sex. Making out would just be kissing," he said.

Stephenson thinks hooking up means something completely different.

"I always thought of it as going on a date, but that's just me," she said.

Others turn to someone with more authority to decide what is or isn't the loss of sexual purity.

"It's not a matter of 'how far can I go before I'm not a virgin anymore?' It's just a matter of 'what am I doing that's pleasing God or not pleasing God?'" said Jon Phillips, a computer engineering graduate student and Intervarsity Christian Fellowship member. His definition of losing one's virginity was a little more specific.

"If you're sexually experienced, it's intercourse and oral and that sort of thing."

Phillips thinks that sex before marriage is one of those things God doesn't find very pleasing.

"For me (sex) is an expression of love in a committed relationship; marriage," he said. "There's a spiritual side of sexuality. After sex you know someone more intimately."

And of the 27 percent of student on campus who are virgins, 56 percent agree with him, citing

religious beliefs as the reason they are waiting to have sex.

"Outside of the framework of marriage it's unhealthy," he said.

Like a virgin

If someone is no longer a virgin, and then wants to make a commitment to wait until marriage before they have sex again, there is a word for it -- secondary virginity. Though it might have taken you your whole life to lose your virginity, it doesn't have to take you that long to find it again.

Swain and Friedman, both non-virgins, said that they don't believe in such a thing.

"Once you lose it, you lose it," Friedman said.

"The only thing close to that is maybe when someone has been raped, when it has been stolen from them," Swain said.

Phillips, a secondary virgin himself, explained what secondary virginity means to him.

"You've acknowledged before God that you've done something wrong and you're keeping yourself pure for marriage," he said.

Cathy Davis, director of youth and family services for Abstinence First, a program funded by the state of Arizona, said that the abstinence movement, once thought of as a radical approach to sex education, is gaining ground.

The program "talks about healthy relationships, consequences; it discusses things like marriage as well," she said.

These factors were the most cited as reasons why UA undergrads have remained virgins, according to Campus Health surveys.

STDs and pregnancy are also issues addressed by Abstinence First, although the program obviously prefers students use abstinence as their birth control.

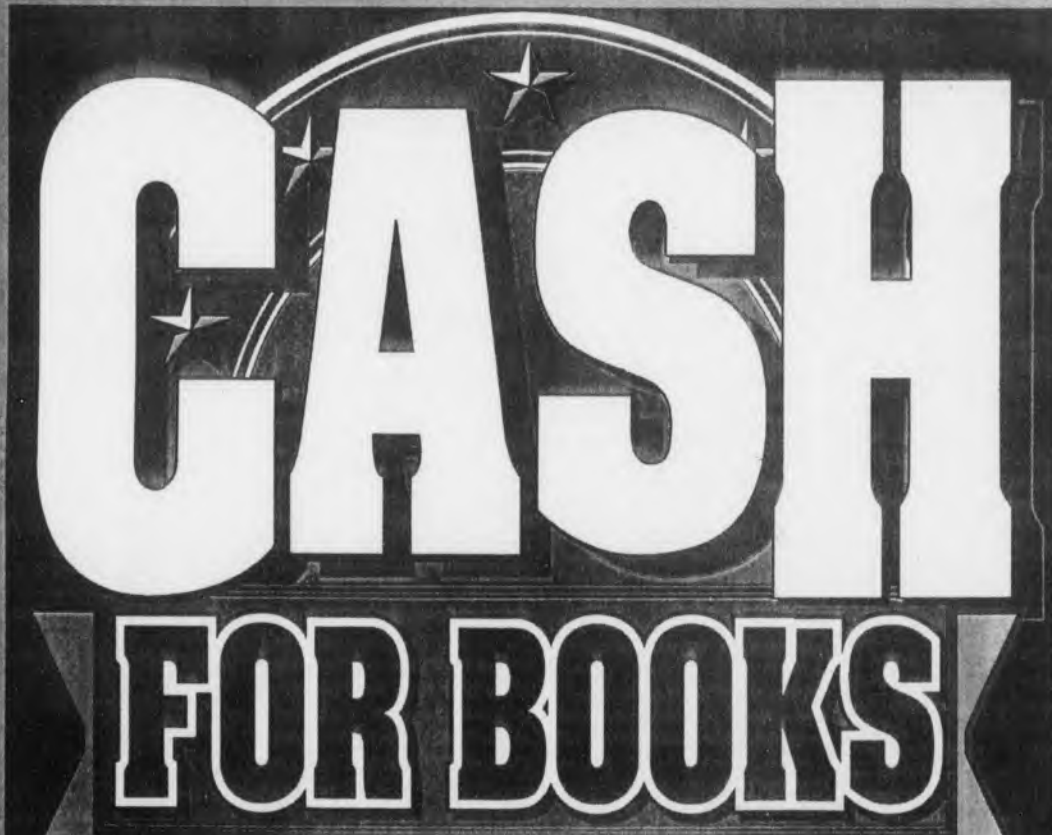
Are contraceptives used in the program? Davis said yes, "but kind of in a sneaky way. We don't want to send a double message. We take the kids through the process, the marriage process. You don't want kids hearing two different things at once."

Davis added that the 5-year-old program was once viewed as a far-right approach to sexual education. Now, she said, it has become "more widely accepted," with teachers embracing it in the curriculum. Davis said there is not a lot of research yet to identify if the program is working or not.

On the UA campus, sexual education is present -- from McGee's sex talk to condom day on the Mall. And, despite the differences in beliefs, columns like "Sex Talk" show that students regularly think about going all the way.

"Being in love with someone makes it better. But, biologically, you can't deny that it feels good," said Swain.

"There's definitely a big difference between having sex and making love," added Friedman.



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Global warming debate heats up

COLUMBUS, Ohio. (U-Wire) — In the middle of a hot summer, how worried should we be about global warming? Scientists disagree. "The nine warmest years in this century have all occurred in the last 14 years," according to Climate Change and Ohio, a September 1998 report from the Environmental Protection Agency. It labeled 1995 the warmest year on record.

Courts free colleges from drug testing

By Susan Haine
U-WIRE

SAN DIEGO — A recent Supreme Court ruling is under fire by several national organizations, including Students for Sensible Drug Policy.

The June 25 decision will permit the drug testing of all high school students involved in extracurricular activities. Critics say the decision violates students' 4th Amendment rights, subjecting them to unreasonable search and seizure.

The decision, however, will not affect students at a college level.

"It is clear that the relationship between high schools and their students is different than the relationship between universities and their students," James Lange, San Diego State University's alcohol and other drug coordinator, said.

For most student organizations on campus, drug testing is not mandatory.

Susan Heiser, associate director of business and programming for Associated Students, said it would not be economical to perform pre-employment drug testing on all students employed by the organization.

"We do have a reasonable suspicion policy that we would use if we suspected an employee of being under the influence of drugs," Heiser said about possible drug testing within A.S. "A.S. has about 1,200 employees and

it would be a big step to test them all."

Heiser said a team reviewed the option of drug testing and decided it was not necessary to perform pre-employment testing on all employees because the problem is not prominent.

The Athletics Department takes a more forward approach to drug testing, not only performing reasonable suspicion testing but also randomly testing student athletes.

"Drug testing in sports is important," said Andy Litteral, former Aztec baseball player. "It is not a violation of their rights to test them. Athletes should not do drugs because it can affect their performance."

During the season, athletes are tested primarily for illegal drugs such as marijuana. If a team makes it to finals or a championship, the athletes are also tested for steroids, Litteral said.

Random drug testing and threat of suspension from playing does decrease drug use among student athletes, Litteral said. However, it does not necessarily end all drug use among athletes.

"In theory, it should reduce use by those involved," Lange said. "However, reducing use does not mean eliminating use. I have certainly heard of students modifying their use patterns during the playing season to avoid testing."

THE WEEK

Brahier to give speech

By Chuck Soder
THE BG NEWS

When Daniel Brahier speaks about the benefits of lifelong learning at commencement on Aug. 10, he'll be speaking from experience.

Brahier, an associate professor of math education at the University, said his speech is partly inspired by the time he spent over the past year as a full-time high school teacher. A year at Notre Dame Academy in Toledo showed him just how much learning he had to catch up on.

"I saw all kinds of stuff that didn't exist when I started teaching 20 years ago," he said.

Brahier, who has taught at the University since 1992, hopes those graduating will also strive to stay on top of their professions.

"Their degrees are not the end—they're the beginning," Brahier said. "Their workplaces are gonna keep changing."

Even while Brahier teaches at the University, he still tries to stay in shape as a teacher of teachers. At the beginning of every week-day, he teaches math to eighth graders at Saint Rose School in

Perrysburg.

Keeping connected to the real classroom is essential if one is going to teach future teachers, according to Brahier.

"I'm constantly telling them how to deal with real students, so this way I'm speaking from experience," he said. "So when a student asks a question, I can say, 'oh, that came up in my class last week.'"

Brahier's zest for learning combined with his in-class enthusiasm landed him the Master Teacher Award last fall. The Master Teacher traditionally delivers the summer commencement speech.

"I think those who decide who gets the award realized that teaching is my passion," he said.

Not only was he surprised to win the award, he was unaware that the package included a commencement speech.

"I didn't even think about it," Brahier said. "I knew some past recipients had spoke, but I didn't put two and two together."

Though experienced in speaking in front of crowds of 25 to 30, Brahier finds the prospect of



Photo provided

Graduation Speaker: Daniel Brahier will speak on Saturday.

speaking to 1000 a bit daunting.

"It was a little scary when I first heard about it," he said. "The question is, what can I say in five minutes that they haven't already thought of in the past four years?"

But, though the task is impos-

ing, Brahier is ready to speak.

"The speech is written - but I've probably changed it a dozen times," he added. "I just hope I've got some nugget in there somewhere in there that'll influence somebody positively."

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QUOTEUNQUOTE

"Screw you guys, I'm goin' home."

Knife-tongued fourth grade cartoon character Eric Cartman, deserting his friends after he deems them uncool. Much like BG News Editor-In-Chief Dan Nied will do when he theoretically graduates Saturday.

OPINION

Help! I'm losing my eggs fast

BRANDI HASTING

Columnist

I read something in a magazine the other day that really got me thinking. There's always a section in women's magazines about sex and sexual health. In this particular magazine, the name of which I can't remember, there was a little blurb about women having a finite number of eggs at birth. They estimated this number to be one million.

The next line said that by the time women are in their twenties, they have approximately 300,000 eggs left. The gist of the story was that women shouldn't wait too long to have children, otherwise they may be unable to conceive.

I had to read this little article twice, and it made my head spin. I'm 22 years old, and I have enough to worry about, what with going to college and working, and moving into a new apartment. Now they're telling me I need to start worrying about when I'm going to have children too?

What a message to send to young women. Basically they're telling me I need to be out there having sex and making some kids before I get too old. The article neglected to tell me how old I would be when I was too old to have children. But telling women to start when they're younger probably isn't a good idea when so many young women are already getting pregnant before they're ready.

People are having sex at younger ages. When I was in high

school, there was a girl in my town that had her first baby at age 14. She had started having sex at age 13. Sure, you learn about sex in health class when you're about that age, but just because you know how it works doesn't mean you're ready to do it. There is no doubt in my mind that this girl was not ready to have a child.

Neither am I. I'm only 22, I'm not out of college yet, and when I do get out of here I'm most likely going to be moving back in with my parents. I know a lot of people my age are doing that after they leave school. Yet this is the age when they're telling us that we should start trying to have kids, before all our eggs run out and it's too late.

I realize the article was more a warning for women who are a little older, but young women read too, believe it or not. And some-

thing like that can get stuck in your mind, as it did mine. I had planned on maybe starting to have kids when I was 30, but that one little bit of information threw me for a loop. What if I get to age 30 and try to have children and can't? Will I kick myself for having waited so long?

If I'm having these thoughts from one little article, I imagine other young women might have the same. Either sperm banks are going to be getting more business or a lot of guys out there are going to start getting lucky.

As for me, well, there will be no increase in sexual encounters. If I get to 30 and have trouble getting pregnant, I'll just adopt. I'd rather have 300,000 eggs go to waste than to bring a child into this world before I'm ready to take on the responsibility.



Photo Provided

BABIES: These quintuplets' mom never has to worry about eggs.

Virginity's just all right with me tonight



Britneyspears.com



Photo Provided

BRITNEY: America's favorite virgin.

ARNOLD: Still chaste after all these years.

DAVID SCHRAG

Columnist

Through popular culture, kids have been made to think that being a virgin in college is as abnormal as a snowball fight in July, but being a virgin at one of the most sexually active schools in the country isn't really as bad as it seems.

In college, students have rituals they go through on the weekends. In BG the ritual is party, party, party and try to hook up with someone that appeals to you sexually. Sometimes one comes before the other, but usually the partying leads to the second. Whatever the ritual, it is a choice

made by the individual for any number of a million reasons.

Being a virgin does come with questions. People say, oh you're scared or you just can't get any, but most of the time the choice of being a virgin is just that, a choice. A guy would have to be crazy not to eventually want to have sex, especially with all of the testosterone built up in his system, but more than likely the time just hasn't been right. If a guy really wants to have sex bad enough, there are plenty of opportunities for him to do so but being a virgin is also one of the great opportunities we have in life.

Virgins go to movies, bars and parties just like everyone else. It's not like we're lepers; we just haven't gone the extra mile. I

could go on and say that in today's society it is dangerous to have sex with all the diseases that can be contracted and the chance of pregnancy, but why beat a dead horse.

These are not the reasons I stand behind maintaining my v-card, I believe that those are only excuses for those who are scared and aren't able to get any. The main reason is time, when the right opportunity comes around it'll take care of itself. Who cares what other people think of your decision, they can't do anything about it, it's your life. Besides, virgins aren't sexually frustrated; there are plenty of ways to gamble without putting all the money in the kitty.

Submission policy

Do you agree with all of this? We doubt it. Write us and let us know where you stand.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR are to be less than 500 words (less than two typed, double-spaced pages). These are usually in response to a current issue on the BGSU campus or Bowling Green area.

GUEST COLUMNS are longer pieces

between 600 and 800 words. These are usually, also, in response to a current issue on the BGSU campus or Bowling Green area.

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Letters to the Editor and Guest Columns are printed as space permits.

Name, phone number and address should be included for verification

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Personal attacks and anonymous submissions will not be printed. Send submission to the Opinion mailbox at 210 West Hall or bgnews@listproc.bgsu.edu with the subject line marked "letter to the editor" or "guest column."

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DAN NIED
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

210 West Hall
Bowling Green State University
Bowling Green, Ohio 43403
Phone: (419) 372-6966
E-mail: bgnews@listproc.bgsu.edu
Website: www.bgnews.com

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ACTORS GUILD FIGHTS FOR ELDERLY:

The California Commission on Aging has teamed up with the actors unions (the Screen Actors Guild and the American Federation of Television and Radio Artists) to fight for the folks over 40. Daily Variety reports that the groups have formed a new organization called the Industry Coalition for Age Equity in the News Media. Their goal is simple: Increase the number of roles for older actors.

Hey fat-ties, get to gym, not to court

JENNIFER WEAVER

San Diego State U.

(U-WIRE) SAN DIEGO - Lawyers have grown tired of chasing ambulances and instead have opted to graze outside fast food joints and target new clientele -- disgruntled and overweight fast-food junkies.

In New York's Bronx Supreme Court, attorney Samuel Hirsch filed suit claiming that McDonald's, Burger King, Wendy's and KFC Corporation post irresponsible and deceptive nutritional information and create a de facto addiction in their customers. The suit also seeks to force the restaurants to offer healthier items and ingredients on menus.

"You don't need nicotine or an illegal drug to create an addiction -- you're creating a craving," Hirsch told Fox News.

As much as I would like to believe that I have no control over cravings for my beloved chicken sandwiches from Jack in the Box, I know this isn't the case. A craving is not an addiction; it is merely a desire or yearning, while an addiction is a compulsive need for a habit-forming substance, such as nicotine, caffeine or heroin.

Fat is not a drug. Hirsch's suit is completely unwarranted and absolutely ridiculous.

Plaintiff Caesar Barbar told the New York Post he always thought fast food was good for him and he never thought there was anything wrong with it. Ignorance is never an excuse. Nutritional information is available at all fast food establishments and on their respective Web sites. If you log onto www.jackinthebox.com, and check out their nutrition information, you will clearly see that an Ultimate Cheeseburger contains 73 grams of fat; conversely, you can go to www.subway.com and see that a six-inch turkey breast sandwich contains a mere six grams of fat.

We live in a free enterprise society where the consumer has the power to freely choose what they want to purchase. Forcing a private corporation to offer or discontinue items goes completely against our free enterprise ideals. If you don't want to get fat, then don't eat at McDonald's. It's an extremely simple concept that even the most inept person can comprehend. There is, in fact, a direct correlation between eating Big Mac's and developing an extra roll around your middle. You don't have to be a scientist to figure that one out.

If these disgruntled overweight plaintiffs would put half the energy into losing weight as they do into filing ridiculous lawsuits against private enterprises, there would be one less moronic suit in court wasting taxpayer's money. The plaintiffs in this case need to re-evaluate their priorities. They can sit around, whine and file frivolous lawsuits or they can put that time and energy into losing weight and improving their lifestyle.

Instead of lashing out at corporations, they should be taking out their anger and aggressions in the gym. They need to be responsible for their actions and realize that fast food corporations did not make them obese. They alone, not the fast food corporations, are solely responsible for their obesity and associated health issues.

Responsibility is the key issue here. People need to be responsible for their actions instead of blaming others. I offer these words of wisdom my older brother once bestowed upon me to the plaintiffs in this case: Put the fork down and get off your ass.

NOW

WEDNESDAY

August 7,
2002

....

www.bgnnews.com/now

BOWLING GREEN STATE UNIVERSITY
VOLUME 94 ISSUE 12

Happy Day

Maine musician Howie Day is making his mark

By Caley Cook
U-WIRE

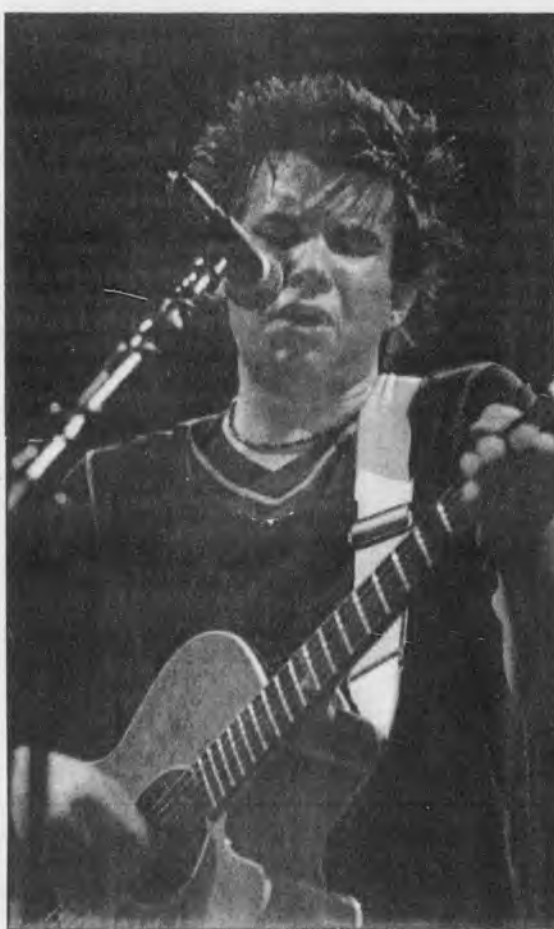
SAN DIEGO - In early summer, thousands of college graduates threw open the double doors of their respective ceremonies and fluttered their virgin eyelashes in the searing sun of today's job market. The country's brightest set off at a sprint, shoving classmates to the wayside in the dubious quest to find the world's best job.

Meanwhile, Howie Day was already chuckling at the finish line.

The 21-year-old singer-songwriter is one of the cogs in the current wheel of male heartbreakers. At first glance, he may seem no more than a hop, skip and a jump away from the likes of John Mayer, David Gray or Jack Johnson. But Day condemns them all to pussyhood with a live show that has fans aflutter and industry folk lining up to lick his toes for a piece of the action.

While his kindred twentysomethings are scouring a rocky job market, Day already has a contract with Epic Records -- which not only enabled him to re-release his album, "Australia" -- but required him to tour with artists such as the Goo Goo Dolls, Alanis Morissette and Blues Traveler. Tough work, if you can get it. But no one's pitying Poor Howie, least of all him.

The Bangor, Maine resident proves a caustically happy conversationalist -- much like his onstage presence, during which he uses multiple pedals and creative looping to layer his voice, guitar, percussion and background vocals into a soaring orchestration. He's played 300 shows in a year and is still able to muster up excitement about hitting the road for a month with Sheryl Crow.



Whitemorecenter.com

DAY TIME: Along with acts like Jack Johnson and John Matherand Howie Day is a leader in the current singer/songwriter revolution.

And despite his understandable yearning for the quiet confines of home -- to which he is en route during our conversation -- Day is in the mood to talk.

"It'll be good to get home and hang out with the lobsters," he says. "They're pretty much the highlight of the whole state.

Whenever there's a map of the country, like one of those that you might see in a third grader's geography book, it always just says 'Maine' and then there's a picture of a lobster next to it. That's pretty much our claim to fame."

Luckily, Bangor has a little

more to talk about thanks to Day. His summer tour with Crow should cement his moody sound in the ears of festival audiences across the country. For his part, Day couldn't be more excited... about the bus.

"They're [giving us] this big tour bus and there's only four of us," he says, incredulously. "Nothing against Sheryl Crow but I'm almost more excited for the bus than anything else. We'll be able to have a jogging track inside there with so much room. There's 12 bunks, so that means we'll all get an extra two bunks."

So that means extra space for groupies?

"Noooo," he moans emphatically. "We're very healthy, actually. We're smoothie-making, exercising bastards. We are! Balance Bars too. And Big and Tasties."

In the normal course of an artist interview, there is the time to bid a polite farewell. Day does not handle this well.

"Look man, just make me look cool," he says, a cinematic reference to Billy Crudup's character in "Almost Famous," before sliding into a 10-minute imitation of Chris Farley in "Black Sheep."

"You know, it is fun when people come up to me and go, 'Are you Howie Day?' and I say, 'On my better days I am Russell from Stillwater.'"

Great, well, have a good drive home--

"Today I'm pretty excited because I got Rolling Stone, and it's the first time I've been in it," he announces. "They reviewed my record and I was excited about that. They gave me five stars!!"

Really?

"No, just three," he laughs. "Maybe I'll get another two stars printed on it and I'll frame it that way and show it to all my friends."

Filter rocks, Linkin Park not so much

FILTER

THE AMALGAMUT
B+
Reprise

According to Filter front-man Richard Patrick, the title of the new filter album, *The Amalgamut* is a tribute to diversity -- "It's about being a mutt." How fitting.

Filter's new album is definitely a mutt, and a good one.

The band has nurtured the floating, watery sound popularized by the band's 1999 hit "Take A Picture" over the past three years.

The album's first single, "Where Do We Go" is a prime example. Backed by an acoustic, Patrick's voice makes the song soar before the electric kicks in. "God Damn Me," a pensive piece with similar floating vocals and a sadder tone, is even better.

But Filter won't be a soft rock band any time soon. From the opening riffs, the group lets you know that it hasn't forgot its industrial-metal roots. "My Long Walk to Jail," buried in the middle of the disk, is sure to make sure listeners aren't getting sleepy.

"I Quit" is another rockin' highlight -- aside from some cheesy, curse-ridden, spoken lines thrown in to try to place the album higher on the bad-ass-o-meter and please Vin Diesel fans.

That's not the only imperfection. The album's most visible wart is the last track, "The 4th." I don't know about you, but any song that has more minutes than different chords needs work. It's just a seven-to-ten minute long chant -- I lost track of time listening to it. Experiment and enjoyable are supposed to meet somewhere.

But most of *The Amalgamut* meets this requirement with no trouble.

— Chuck Soder

LINKIN PARK

REANIMATION
D
Warner Brothers

With one of the highest grossing album's in the past few years, Linkin Park decides to change their album *Hybrid Theory* from an intense rock and hip hop album to a retelling of the same album appropriately renamed, *Reanimation*. The group took all of the songs from

their debut album, hired a few underground MC's and changed their outstanding album into an electronic sonic fusion piece of garbage. Songs such as "In the End," "Crawling," "Papercut" and "One Step Closer" have been chopped up so badly that you are not even sure what is playing.

The original "In the End," was a huge success because of its unique and mysterious sound. The rock rap of the song were so intense that everyone felt the words, but the new version, "In the End" is horrible. They took the original and made it into a remix of pots and pans. It almost sounds like you are listening to the sounds of the factory line with very obliterated vocals in the background.

"Crawling" and "Papercut" have been newly named, Krwlng, and PPR-KUT, wow, how ingenious. The cryptic chords and haunting intros or these once playable songs aren't enough to save these preposterous renditions. I'd rather be fed to the wolves than fed anymore of this sonic fusion horse manure that they call one of a kind.

Lead MC of the band, Mike Shinoda, said to the press, "I think this album offers up an element that's so seamlessly mixed and different that many people will find themselves enjoying something they wouldn't



Photo Provided

LINKIN PARK: Linkin Park's remix album misses the point entirely.

normally listen to." What's that Mike, the sound of the nails screeching on the chalkboard in track 6, or maybe it's the endless repetition of the same synthesizer sounds used throughout the 20 tracks on the album, yeah, that'll be music to everyone's ears. *Reanimation* was a creative attempt by Linkin Park. Whether it was a creative attempt to show their real side, or simply a very creative way to screw people out of their money, well that's something only the band will know.

A fan of Linkin Park I am, but a success, this album is not, I'd rather buy a remix of The Macarena interpreted by William Shattner.

— Dave Schrag

WEIRD

NEWS

Man steals sperm from job hunter

In a bizarre attack, a job hunter was "robbed" of sperm in Kraaifontein, after a passerby offered him food, took him home and beat him up before forcing him to ejaculate into a jar. Police spokesman Ian Rosant confirmed that a 33-year-old man had laid a charge of indecent assault with Kraaifontein police.

He said the suspect, described as middle-aged, had offered the man work and food at his home. But instead he took his victim into a room, locked the door and asked him to have sex with his wife. Rosant said that when the confused and shocked job seeker refused to have sex with his false Samaritan's wife, the man punched him. "The attacker then partially stripped the frightened man and forcibly caused him to ejaculate" while the woman looked on, Rosant said.

The man collected his victim's sperm and sealed it in a jar. Police have failed to find the suspect so far, but hope they will catch him at home on Tuesday.

Hot camel love gets boy lashed

A court in northern Saudi Arabia has sentenced a Nigerian teenager to six months in jail and 240 lashes for having sex with a camel. Dr. Eisa Abdullah Al-Ghaith, a judge at a summary court in Tabuk, told Arab News that the court found the 17-year-old boy guilty of "having tried to have sexual relations with a camel."

But the camel's owner said the young Nigerian "got into his farm and had sex" with the dromedary. The teenager was arrested by police while he was trying to have sex with one of the camels. The teenager confessed before the court that he intended to have sex with the camel. Ghaith said the lashes will be administered in six installments of 40 lashes each with an interval of seven days.

Dog does time in clink for biting

A stray dog has left jail in Brazil after serving a year-and-a-half for biting a lorry driver. Bingo had been treated like the human prisoners at the police station in the Amazonian town of Maranhao.

He had his own cell and access to scheduled exercise periods, medical treatment and visitors. A judge ordered Bingo's detention for public safety for the attack on the lorry driver, reports the *Jornal de Brasil*. But he has been released on the orders of another judge after several public protests over his detention.

— From Fark.com

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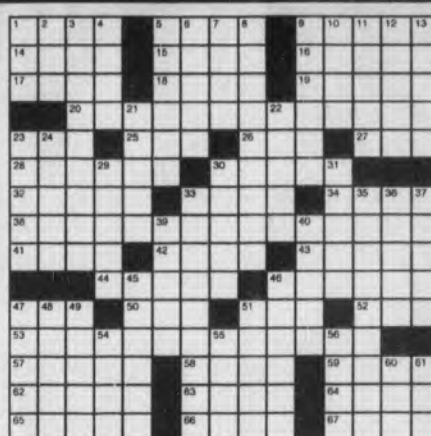
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- 5 Perched on
- 9 Embroidered loop
- 14 Type of shark?
- 15 Summon
- 16 Leghorn location
- 17 Nautical left
- 18 Operatic melody
- 19 Temporary paper money
- 20 Beginning of quip
- 23 Favorite
- 25 Constantine's birthplace
- 26 Tango team
- 27 PGA prop
- 28 Ohio city near Cleveland
- 30 Jibs
- 32 Sublease a flat
- 33 Front of the calf
- 34 Mine entrance
- 38 Part 2 of quip
- 41 Evening in Milano
- 42 Sorry 'bout that

- 43 Story so far
- 44 Uses a microwave?
- 46 Impart
- 47 Circle segment
- 50 Lah-di—
- 51 Mayday!
- 52 Born in Paris
- 53 End of quip
- 57 Come to terms
- 58 Greek letters
- 59 Operatic prima donna
- 62 Monarch
- 63 Unclothed
- 64 "National Velvet" writer
- 65 Escritoires
- 66 Molt
- 67 Matured

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